FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 DECEMBER 1986

Lebanon

Camps War — Fighting continued in Maghdushah 9 December despite the announcement in Damascus of another cease-fire agreement and the imminent withdrawal of Palestinian forces from the area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The PNSF and the Amal Movement had reached a new agreement whereby the Palestinians would evacuate Maghdushah 9 December in favor of Hizballah, according to Palestinian sources in Damascus cited by the radio. Reports by Beirut radio and Radio Monte Carlo confirmed the agreement for a Palestinian withdrawal but did not mention Hizballah. Beirut radio also cited a UAE press report that the PLO has sent fresh troops into Lebanon.

In Tunis, the Lebanese ambassador told Arab foreign ministers that their meeting on the camps war constitutes a violation of Lebanese sovereignty, Voice of National Resistance Radio reported. For the PLO's part, Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas proposed that the Arab states send military observers to supervise a cease-fire, Radio Free Lebanon noted. Kuwait radio subsequently cited a TAP report that a majority of delegates had rejected the drafting committee's proposal on the camps war because of its weakness, adding that the committee is expected to prepare a "stronger" proposal for consideration at the meeting.

Christian Leadership — Samir Ja'ja' was elected commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces Command Council during the council's inaugural meeting 8 December, Radio Free Lebanon reported. Karim Paqraduni becomes deputy commander in chief and George 'Adwan is the council's secretary general for political affairs. The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee had announced its decision to transform itself into a Command Council in a 5 December statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, noting that this is in accordance with a desire for "more comprehensive representation" within the Forces.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told two visiting U.S. senators that violations of public order in the occupied territories are the result of PLO "incitement," Jerusalem radio reported. According to *Ha'Aretz*, Shamir gave the senators a message for King Husayn, informing the latter of Israel's desire for closer ties with Jordan in the face of the PLO's attempts to strengthen its position in the territories. However, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in a Jerusalem radio interview that he knows nothing about any such message. Peres also expressed regret over the U.S. abstention in the U.S. Security Council vote on a resolution condemning Israel's conduct in the occupied territories.

Reporting on the continuing rioting in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted that IDF soldiers opened fire at youths from the Balatah refugee camp 8 December, disclosing that four youths were injured by gunfire and that a 12-year-old boy died in a Nabulus hospital. However, an investigation into the boy's death showed that he died before the shooting by IDF soldiers, the radio said, adding that the investigation is continuing. Another Arab youth was wounded in a scuffle with an Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip 9 December, the radio disclosed. Meanwhile, the Egyptian foreign minister instructed his ambassador in Tel Aviv to convey Egypt's request that Israel halt its "suppressive" measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, MENA noted.

In further comment on the U.S.-Iran arms affair, Prime Minister Shamir told Likud MK's that Israel might have secured the release of IDF personnel captured in Lebanon if the U.S.-Iran deal had not been leaked and thereby sabotaged, according to Jerusalem radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Continuing its retaliation for Iraqi "mischief," Iran fired three short-range "Eagle" missiles on industrial and economic centers in Basra 9 December, IRNA reported. The agency also reported that Iranian shelling the previous day inflicted "heavy damage" on a power plant and factories in Basra as well as roads and railway facilities. A communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio noted that 12 civilians were killed when Iranian shells fell on residential areas of Basra.

Regarding Iraqi action against Iran, the communique said that aircraft launched successful raids on several power stations 8 December, including the installations at Arak. IRNA accused Iraqi warplanes of killing five civilians in a raid near Kangavar. A statement cited by Voice of the Masses radio announced an Iraqi air strike against the "heart" of the Hamadan power plant 9 December.

In the aftermath of previous action in the Gulf, INA cited a Lloyds report that a Maltese tanker off the Iranian coast was "severely damaged" by a missile 7 December. The UAE oil minister thanked his Iranian counterpart for Iran's offer to help repair the Abu al-Bakhush oil platform which was damaged by "Iraqi bombing raids" 25 November, IRNA reported.

Kuwait

The State Security court sentenced a Jordanian to 20 years imprisonment for his part in bomb attacks and shootings at Kuwaiti coffee shops in July 1985, KUNA reported. The court also sentenced two other men to imprisonment in absentia, KUNA said, noting that two Jordanians are under arrest in connection with the affair, while three others remain at large.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received GUNT Chairman Acheikh ibn Oumar, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio

reported. Upon arrival in Tripoli 6 December, Oumar told JANA that Chadian factions were "compelled" to resolve "internal contradictions" by dismissing former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei for "high treason."

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with an Egyptian opposition delegation led by Ibrahim Shukri in Damascus, Tripoli radio noted.

Egypt

The minister of economy and foreign trade and the chairman of the USSR state bank signed a protocol in Cairo following 2 weeks of talks on financial, trade, and economic relations, TASS reported. According to Voice of the Mountain, a clandestine Lebanese radio, the Soviet Union agreed to renegotiate Egypt's military debt.

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Resistance Leader Denies U.S. Financial Aid

PM081152 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Dec 86 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Series of Revelations and Denials on 'Swiss Connection'"]

[Excerpt] While making a brief stopover in Paris on Wednesday 3 December, Burhanuddin Rabbani, spokesman for the Islamic Mujahidin Alliance, the main Afghan resistance coalition, categorically denied that the United States and Saudi Arabia have each given his movement financial aid worth $250 million, deposited in a secret Swiss bank account. "Not only do I deny this, I categorically deny it. This is all just propaganda," he said. Mr Rabbani was due to leave Paris on Thursday for a 1-week visit to Africa (Gabon, Senegal, Niger).

The Washington Post, citing unnamed Congress investigators, reported on Wednesday that the funds from the secret arms sales to Iran had been used to finance not only the Nicaraguan "contras" but also the Afghan rebels and that these sums of money had been paid through the same Swiss bank account. [passage omitted]

Karachi Says 3 Army Officers Join Mujahidin

BK090258 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, three officers of the 70th Brigade of the Soviet-Najib army have reportedly joined the mujahidin. According to a report, they had sent their family members to the mujahidin-controlled area before defection.

Another report says the mujahidin attacked the communist military posts at Bala Morghab area of Herat Province in the 2d week of the last month and destroyed one of them. All the Najib soldiers stationed on the post were either killed or wounded in this attack.

In another operation in Nangarhar area, the mujahidin inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the Soviet-Najib forces. Five soldiers surrendered themselves to the mujahidin.

There has been a major clash in the Daman area of Qandahar as well, according to the Kabul Radio.

Armed Forces' Operation Reported in Qandahar

LD081850 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The military correspondent of BIA in his report from the District of Daman, Qandahar Province, writes that as a result of a heroic attack by soldiers, NCO's and officers of the Armed Forces on the nests and hideouts of the counterrevolutionaries, crushing blows have been inflicted on the enemy.

As a result of these successful operations, a number of these criminals, who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the inhabitants of that district, with their destructive and antihuman deeds, were crushed. A number of them along with their weapons were captured by the country's security forces.

The report further adds that several hideouts and strong positions of the enemy were destroyed as a result of the heroic attack by the country's security forces and a large amount of combat arms and ammunition, including heavy weapons, antipersonnel and anti vehicle mines, hand grenades, and transportation equipment were seized by the security forces and a large number of them were destroyed.

Mujahidin Kill 20 Troops in Baghlan Province

BK071116 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Delayed reports from Afghanistan say 20 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed when the mujahidin stormed 5 security posts in the vicinity of Andrab Town near Salang highway in Baghlan Province on the 22d of last month. Besides destroying three security posts, the mujahidin seized heavy arms and ammunition during the operation.

Down Cargo Plane

BK070612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] According to a delayed report, Afghan mujahidin shot down a cargo plane east of Kabul on the 21st of last month. It is reported that all 30 persons on board the plane were killed. The plane was being used to transport Soviet-Kabul troops.

Foil Soviet-Kabul Attack; Kill 200

BK061111 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, 200 Soviet-Kabul troops are reported to have been killed when Afghan mujahidin repulsed their attack last week in Parvan Province. A jet fighter, a helicopter, and a number of tanks and military vehicles were also damaged.

Down 4 Helicopter Gunships

BK060829 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down four helicopter gunships in Nangarhar Province during the last 10 days of heavy fighting. The report said two of the helicopters were returning from Konar Province after conducting an air raid on the mujahidin strongholds. The other two helicopters which were on a security flight over the Kabul-Jalalabad highway were shot down on the 28th of the last month. Another report says the Afghan mujahidin killed 15 Soviet-Kabul troops in a subdivision of Ghor and destroyed a tank and two armored cars.

Gandhi Welcomes Merger of Congress Parties

BK081756 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has welcomed the merger of Congress-S with Congress-I. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing a mammoth public rally in Aurangabad today after the plenary session of the Congress-S, lead by Mr Sarat Pawar, adopted the unity resolution at its all-India convention. The prime minister declared that with the merger of the two parties, the Indian National Congress has become once again stronger. He said that the unity of the congress has augured well for strengthening the ideals of freedom, democracy, socialism, and secularism in the country. He said the congress has stood for these values and ideals since its birth. He warned against weakening these ideals and pointed out that internal and external forces are trying to undermine the unity and integrity of the country.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that all efforts should be made to isolate terrorists in Punjab and assured that the center will take all necessary steps to eliminate them.

Addressing the rally, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that from Kashmir to Kaniya Kumari, India is one nation and called upon the people to remain vigilant to maintain its unity and integrity. Dr Abdullah warned Pakistan against having any evil designs against India.

Mr Sarat Pawar, who was speaking on the occasion, said his party has decided to merge its identity with the Congress-I as the country was faced with danger from antinational and divisive forces. He said his party was convinced that Mr Rajiv Gandhi will steer the country successfully through the present critical period. Maharashtra chief minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, was also present on the occasion.

Earlier, addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi, the prime minister said the center is very clear about its responsibilities relating [to] the Punjab and there would be no shirking of these responsibilities. Mr Gandhi said the center had not taken direct action in any of the subjects in the state list as it required a material change in the center's relationship with the states. Terrorism was not there 40 years ago and the constituent assembly did not look at it. The prime minister suggested a national debate on certain types of terrorism.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations of the meeting, the parliamentary party secretary, Mr R.P. Panikar, said Mr Gandhi suggested to some legislations for management on public sector undertakings with greater accountability.

On Sri Lanka, the prime minister said he had gone through certain proposals received from that country. These are quite good and have covered most of the points of the ethnic problem. One or two ticklish points are there which require clarification.

Referring to Mr Gorbachev's recent visit, Mr Gandhi said that the new phase in Indo-Soviet relations will give greater cooperation for both countries.

Bill for New State of Arunachal Pradesh Passed

BK081312 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The Lok Sabha today gave its approval to the proposal for conferring statehood on Arunachal Pradesh. It passed a Constitution amendment bill by 338 votes in favor and 34 against. The House also adopted the state of Arunachal Pradesh bill. Under the provisions the new state of Arunachal Pradesh will have a 40-member legislative assembly. However, until a new House is elected the existing assembly with 30 members will continue as a provisional assembly. The governor will have speacial responsibility with regard to law and order. He will excercise his individual judgment to the action to be taken after consulting the Council of Ministers.

Earlier, intervening in the discussion, the prime minister said the measure will fulfill the political aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and help in their cultural and economic development. Congratulating the people of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr Rajiv Gandhi assured the members that the customary laws and practices of the tribals will be fuliy protected. Referring to the criticism by some members, Mr Gandhi said special powers to the governor is absolutely essential in view of the sensitive location of the state.

The proposal to confer statehood on Arunachal Pradesh received wide support from the members. Some, however, expressed reservation about special powers being provided for the governor. Most of the members pleaded for a 60-member assembly.

Replying to the discussion, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, assured the House that the inalien regulations will continue to be enforced in Arunachal Pradesh, thereby preventing encroachment by outsiders. The northeastern council will take up many schemes for the development of the new state.

Ministers To Visit Sri Lanka for Tamil Talks

BK081659 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Two ministers are visiting Sri Lanka from the 17th of this month to resume the dialogue on finding a solution to the ethnic problem in that country. They are the minister of state for home affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram; amd the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh. Before their 3-day visit to Colombo, they will be in Madras on the 15th and 16th for talks with the Tamil Nadu chief minister and the Sri Lankan Tamil groups.

Foreign Minister on Border Talks With PRC

BK080959 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0854 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In response to a question tabled by Chitta Basu regarding the recent efforts made by the Government of India in the direction of peaceful solution of border disputes between India and China and the results thereof, Narayana Dutt Tiwari, min-

ister of external affairs, stated in Rajya Sabha on 2 December 1986 as under:

It is the policy of the Government of India to find a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the boundary question with China consistent with national honour and sovereignty. The recent efforts made in this direction are:

At the seventh round of the official level talks in Beijing in July 1986, substantive discussions were continued on the eastern sector of the boundary. Discussions on the western sector were also initiated. The question of the recent Chinese intrusion in Sumdorong Chu Valley of Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh was taken up by the leader of the Indian delegation, Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran, with the acting Chinese premier, Wan Li, as well as with the Chinese foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian.

At his meeting with the Chinese foreign minister in New York on 18 September 1986 the then external affairs minister, P. Shiv Shankar, while discussing the Chinese intrusion had emphasised that the Chinese Government should not have taken recourse to such action and that they should instead have consulted with the Government of India if there were any doubts as to the location of the surrounding areas and the relative alignment of the Mcmahon Line.

Karnataka Violence Protests Published Story

1 Killed; Editor Arrested

BK081401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In the southern state of Karnataka, one person was killed in the police firing in the renewed violence in Shivaji Nagar area of Bangalore. With this the death toll in police firing has risen to nine. Today the police resorted to firing after their efforts to quell a violent mob failed.

The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has ordered a judicial inquiry into yesterday's disturbances and the police firing.

Meanwhile, police have arrested both the editor and the publisher of the *Deccan Herald* — the English daily — which published an article reportedly causing violence in the city.

Mysore Under 'Night Curfew'

BK090315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, night curfew has been clamped in the riot-torn areas of Mysore where four people were killed in firing last evening. Our Bangalore correspondent reports that the situation in Mysore has improved despite tension in some areas. The violence, which began in Bangalore on Sunday following the publication of an article in a local daily, continued for the 2d day yesterday. A mob tried to set on fire a godown of the newspaper which published the story. One person was killed when the police opened fire, while five of those injured in Sunday's violence succumbed to their injuries. According to the new city police commissioner, Mr Balakrishna, the situation is now under control. The newspaper concerned has once again published an apology on the front page and appealed to the people to maintain peace. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has also renewed his appeal to the people of the two cities to shun violence.

Violence Spreads; Curfew Extended

BK090907 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Reports from Karnataka say that violence has spread to some more areas. One person was killed in Tunkur, 70 kms from Bangalore, when police opened fire this morning to quell mob violence. The police say that firing was resorted [to] when miscreants started burning public property. The violence followed controversy over a story published by a newspaper some days ago. In Mysore, the authorities have extended the curfew in troubled areas of the city where four persons were killed in police firing yesterday. Seventy six persons have been taken into custody so far in Mysore.

Prohibitory orders have been issued throughout Belgaum District for a week from today as a preacutionary measure. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has flown back to Bangalore, cancelling all his engagements in Belgaum District to review the situation. Prohibitory orders have also been issued in five cities of Dharwar District. No violence has been reported in Bangalore since late last night.

Meanwhile, the home minister, Mr Bhuta Singh, has appealed to all those agitating to accept the unconditional apology of the editor and treat the matter as closed. In a statement in New Delhi, Mr Buta Singh said peace and communal harmony is the need of the hour. He said he has urged the chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, to ensure that such provocative stories are not published again. He said the center has offered all assistance to the state government. Mr Buta Singh also conveyed his sympathy to the families of those killed in the violence.

Death Toll Increases to 11

BK081655 Dehi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, six persons were killed in police firing today in two separate incidents as the violence spread to other parts of the state. Five persons have been killed at Mysore while one was killed at Bangalore in police firing. Five persons, who were injured in yesterday's police firing in Bangalore, succumbed to their injuries today. With this, the death toll in yesterday's firing in Bangalore has risen to 11. At Mysore, the police had to open fire as mobs agitating over an article published by an English daily from Bangalore which hurt the religious feelings of the community turned violent and tried to set fire to public property.

Disturbances are also reported from Kolar, 70 km from Bangalore. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has ordered a judicial inquiry into yesterday's disturbances and the police

firing. The state government has announced compensation of 20,000 rupees to each of the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, police arrested both the editor and the publisher of the *Deccan Herald* which published an article reportedly leading to violence in the city. They were later released on bail.

'Prohibitory Orders' Extended 3 Days in Delhi

BK090322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The Delhi police have placed restrictions on articles permitted to be taken inside cinema halls and places of public entertainment. No box, handbag, or any container fit to conceal arms and ammunition will be allowed inside from today for the next 2 months. Meanwhile, prohibitory orders have been extended in the capital for 3 more days.

Sikh 'Militants' Prepare 'Hit-List of Traitors'

BK081407 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Dec 8 (AFP) — Sikh militants battling for an independent Sikh homeland in the Punjab said Monday they were preparing a new hit-list of "traitors" to the Sikh cause.

A militant faction of the All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF) announced here that it had set up a group to prepare a list of "Sikh traitors responsible for desecrating Sikh temples, police informers, and police officials responsible for repression and killings of Sikh youths." AISSF office secretary Gurbaj Singh said in a news release: "The list would be sent to organisations like the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) for action and elimination."

The KLF is one of several Sikh groups waging a bloody campaign for an independent Sikh nation called Khalistan in the Punjab. The group claimed responsibility for a November 30 massacre of 24 Hindus in the state which sparked protests all over northern India.

Mr Gurbaj Singh said Monday that the "secret intelligence agency" the AISSF had raised to prepare the new hit-list would start working by January 1st. The group would comprise ten "intelligence officials and 100 staff members" in each of the Punjab's 12 districts, he said.

Sikh militants spearheading the five-year-old separatist campaign reportedly have a hit-list with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Zail Singh high on it. Several politicians of India's ruling Congress (I) and the Punjab's police chief Julio Ribeiro also figure on the list.

Economic Talks With USSR Set To Begin 9 Dec

LD081637 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 8, IRNA — The tenth ministerial session of the Permanent Commission for Tehran-Moscow Economic Cooperation is to be held here Tuesday after a six-year delay.

Soviet Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev arrived here Monday to attend the session. The Soviet official is here at the invitation of Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, who will head a ranking Iranian economic delegation at the meet.

Upon his arrival, the Soviet official said that the two countries enjoy historical, economic, and commercial cooperation. He added that a number of agreements involving the execution of industrial plans in the fields of energy and metallurgy have been signed by the two countries. The Soviet official noted that execution of previously signed agreements will be discussed during the commission as well as future joint economic plans.

Katushev said that the USSR views the talks as important. He also expressed hope that the negotiations would be a 'big leap' in future cooperation between the USSR and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian minister who welcomed the Soviet delegation at the airport termed the holding of such meetings 'useful'. He said there is a great deal of room to expand bilateral commercial relations. Iravani said that the purpose for the formation of the commission is to study what areas the two can collaborate as well as future Tehran-Moscow economic relations.

The Iranian minister further said that talks are to be held on steel plant, power stations, transport, fisheries, and commercial issues. A protocol will be signed at the end of the session, said Iravani.

The Soviet delegation is also scheduled to confer with Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi as well as some ministers.

Iravani Comments on Upcoming Talks

LD082226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Interview with Economy and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani by unidentified correspondent on the session of the Permanent Joint Economic Cooperation Council between the USSR and Iran; date, place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, Mr Iravani, the esteemed minister of economy and finance and leader of the Iranian delegation in discussions with the Soviet delegation, please tell us about the issues to be discussed in this session and your expectations for the talks.

[Iravani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In view of the neighborliness that exists between Iran and the USSR, the long-lasting bilateral economic relations, and the transformation that has taken place in the expansion and development of good-neighborly bilateral relations, His Excellency Mr Konstantin Fedorovich Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and a high-ranking delegation, have come to Tehran at my invitation in order to convene the 10th session of the Permanent Joint Economic Cooperation Council between the two countries. This session will officially start its work tomorrow morning. Mr Katushev and his accompanying delegation will hold talks with a number of ministers. This session is being convened again in Tehran after 6 years. Prior to its convening a number of Soviet and Iranian expert teams have exchanged views. There have been many discussions in the fields of steel mill engineering, power stations, fisheries, agriculture, transportation, commerce, and other economic activities. During this visit the protocol of the 10th session of the economic council will be signed by Mr Katushev and myself. This session will be held every year alternatively in Tehran and Moscow.

[Correspondent] As a result of this session, what will be the level of relations between the two countries?

[Iravani] It is clear that we regard the revival of the permanent council for economic cooperation between the two countries after 6 years as a positive step. This council will undoubtedly act to solve the difficulties that have existed and that have accumulated in bilateral relations. We will delineate the future outlook of economic relations between the two countries. We believe that this session will render very constructive assistance to bilateral cooperation.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Arrives 4 Dec

NC050615 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] Sierra Leone's foreign minister arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-ranking political delegation and was welcomed by our Foreign Minister Velayati.

In an interview with our correspondent on the goals of his trip, Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma said: The members of my delegation and I are quite happy to be here in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is yet another step in the expansion of relations between our two countries. He added: I am carrying a message from my president to Mr Khamene'i.

As for those areas where our ties could be deepened, Mr Koroma explained: Despite the fact that our two states established relations in the fairly recent past, our economic and cultural cooperation has been quite good. This delegation's visit and its talks in the Islamic Republic of Iran will certainly increase the understanding between us.

Meets With Hoseyn Musavi

LD061647 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 6, IRNA — Visiting Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma met with Prime Minister Hoseyn

Musavi here Saturday. At the meeting, also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali-Reza Mo'ayeri, Koroma lauded the Iranian people for their firm resistance against the cultural, economic, and political aggressions of colonialist powers. He stressed that Iran's victory over foreign aggressions could set a good precedent for Third World [countries] and enable them to solve their difficulties. Koroma said his country was interested in further expanding her ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response, Prime Minister Musavi underlined the importance of unity among Third World countries, saying that solidarity and understanding between Iran and Sierra Leone in their confrontation with colonialist powers could be a good investment in expanding relations between the two countries. Musavi also noted that Third World countries should rely on one another in an effort to attain independence and cut their dependence on foreign powers. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to further promote her ties with the Third World in various areas, the prime minister said.

Referring to Iran's neither-East-nor-West policy, Musavi said that the Third World can rely on Islamic Iran in their independence struggles. "We welcome the anti-colonialist spirit of the people of Sierra Leone as well as the government's desire to expand relations with Iran," Musavi added.

Meets Aqazadeh, Rafiqdust

LD062018 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 6, IRNA — Visiting Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma met with Iran's Minister of Oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday. At the meeting the two sides discussed Tehran-Freetown economic and commercial relations and ways to further expand them. Aqazadeh said that Iran will assist Sierra Leone in meeting its energy requirements. Aqazadeh accepted an invitation from Koroma to visit Sierra Leone, the date to be fixed at a later date.

Meanwhile, Koroma met separately with ministers of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust on the same day and told him that his country longs for Iran to be victorious in the Iraqi imposed war. He added that Western countries especially U.S. imperialism were accomplices in the war imposed on Iran by Iraq. Koroma further said that the people of his country are inspierd by the Iranian nation's resistance.

The IRGC minister in response said that the global powers build their strength on the weakness of others. Rafiqdust said that Iran's power is at the service of friendly countries. The Sierra Leonean official arrived here on Dec 4 at the head of a delegation.

Holds Talks With Majlis Speaker

NC071142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma met and talked with Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hasehmi-Rafsanjani yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and a number of Majlis deputies, Mr Koroma said: We pay close attention to the success of the Islamic Revolution and we believe that the developments here benefit not only Iran, but all the world's oppressed peoples as well. It is actually a lesson for all those who lived under colonialism and are striving to regain their identity. He added: We in Sierra Leone, like other African countries, experienced colonial rule brought to us by others. This is why we find it difficult to trust the superpowers today. However, we are confident of our friendship with such countries as the Islamic Republic of Iran and we are grateful for its assistance in solving the problems of African states.

Referring to the fact that Sierra Leone's parliamentary system was inherited from the British, Mr Koroma expressed hope that the exchange of parliamentary delegations would allow its problems and defects to be overcome. In so doing, the progress which Iran has made with its parliamentary system would be used.

For his part, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was happy to be in the presence of African brothers from a country with a Muslim majority. He noted: We consider Africa a potentially revolutionary and, to a great extent, Islamic continent. Thus, any African official who comes to Iran makes us happy and optimistic that we can come to some meeting of the minds. Thanks to our Islamic programs and congresses in Sierra Leone, we have good information available and have high hopes for your country's future. We feel that if Africa's native and popular forces come on to the scene, they can save Africa from the Westerners, who have committed, and who continue to commit, fraud on the continent. In our opinion, Western culture is one obstacle to the African people's freedom, independence, and well-being. Our experience with the Islamic Revolution has shown that the more we distance ourselves from Western culture, the clearer is the road to the revolution's consolidation and development. The Westerners apparently realized that Islam would be a great and uncontrollable force in Africa's future, which explains their efforts to hinder the progress of Muslims.

Turning to the fact that the influence of Muslims on Africa's political and economic life is not commensurate with their numbers and that this is not in Africa's interests, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjeni noted: It appears that Islam is the culture that can be shared by the greatest number of Africans. The differences among native Africans over questions of nationhood and other legacies from the West prevent their progress and independence. In addition, the revolutionary approach to Islam is less apparent in other fields as well. Stressing the fact that Iran has benefited greatly from Islam, the Majlis speaker declared: Had we relied on anything other than Islam, we would have been defeated both in the war and by the plots of foreign enemies. He added: Obviously, the deprivation of Africans is an impetus for us in and of itself. If we can help, we will do all we can to help overcome the oppression which Africa has suffered and continues to suffer. Although we are at war and are busy dealing with its effects, we have spared no effort thus far. At any rate, you can — both as an oppressed country and as one with a Muslim majority — have complete faith in your friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Delivers Message to Khamene'i

NC071413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit notes that Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma, who is in our country at the head of a high-ranking political delegation, met with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i yesterday afternoon and delivered a message from his president to Iran's Islamic president. [passage omitted]

Sierra Leone's foreign minister said: The victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution has opened new paths for those of us who have suffered the bitter experience of centuries of colonialism. Turning to our president's remarks at the Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran, he declared: Your comments and the question of freedom that you raised have inspired us. We believe that neither communism nor capitalism can ensure true freedom, and that only a third force — Islam — can teach mankind true liberty. He added: We are well aware of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fighting an enemy encouraged by foreign powers. We trust you will emerge victorious in this struggle. He closed by calling for greater poiitical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

In reply, Mr Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the message from the Sierra Leonean president and said: We have a feeling of responsibility as far as the problems faced by the Third World are concerned. We sympathize with Third World states, particularly with African nations. Referring to plots by the forces of global arrogance in the Third World, our president pointed out: At a time when the great powers are constantly scheming and creating problems for the Third World, our most urgent duty is to come closer together and solve each others' problems.

On the clashes in Southern Lebanon, Mr Khamene'i said: This Lebanese problem, the problem of the oppressed Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, which I touched upon at yesterday's Friday prayers ceremony, and the other troubles that have been forced on these oppressed peoples are among the conspiracies of the great powers and the results of interference by the world's big hegemonists. We all have duties in connection with this. Our president continued: It has been made clear everywhere that the arrogant powers are vulnerable today and that Third World countries can win if they are vigilant. It was against a background of conflict in Southern Lebanon and Beirut that we came on to the scene, and, fortunately, the Muslims of Lebanon and the Amal Movement, as well as the Palestinian groups, agreed to the Islamic Republic's cease-fire plan. The cease-fire has been a source of happiness, and I hope it will hold. Mr Khamene'i added: One can see the plots and meddling hand of world arrogance directed against oppressed nations in every part of the world. The problems of northern, southern, and western Africa have been imposed by the big powers. Africa is a land rich in wealth and blessings. It has good people and is capable of solving its problems. In any case, we are prepared to deepen our relations with the Third World in all political, technical, and economic fields. When world arrogance saw this, it imposed the war on our nation. However, this conflict will end favorably, God willing.

Concludes Visit; Departs 7 Dec

LD071441 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma concluded his two-day official visit to Iran and left here for Freetown Sunday.

During his stay, Koroma held talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanfani, and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on ways to further expand Iran-Sierra Leone relations. Prior to his departure, Koroma explained the outcome of his visit to reporters and said both his country and the Islamic Republic fully agree with the need to support the oppressed nations.

Meanwhile, [Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar] Velayati said that a joint communique on the outcome of Koroma's visit to Tehran would be released soon. He also said that he and Koroma had agreed that high ranking Iranian and Sierra Leonean delegations would visit each other's country to follow up the talks.

Joint Communique Issued

NC080807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at the conclusion of the visit to Iran by Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma, he and the Iranian foreign minister have issued a joint communique. In this communique both sides express satisfaction over the growing relations between the two countries. They call for the consolidation of joint cooperation at the international level and reject intervention by world arrogance in the destiny of the Third World.

Declaring their support for the struggles of the Muslim and combatant Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the Zionist occupier, the two sides conclude that continuation of the struggle until the liberation of all the occupied territories is the only way to resist the Zionist regime, the subservient pawn of world arrogance.

Referring to recent clashes between some groups in Lebanon, the two ministers describe these as a plot by imperialism and Zionism. They call on various elements in that country to preserve their unity and solidarity and to mobilize all their strength and resources against the Zionist enemy, concentrating their attacks on this enemy in order to liberate all the occupied territories.

The two countries also express aversion to the system of apartheid in South Africa and condemn that regime's attacks on Frontline States. They also condemn harsh repression of demonstrations and the heroic struggle of the true owners of the land, calling for an end to apartheid and for the establishment of rule based on majority vote by the blacks in that part of the world. They also stress the importance of Namibia's gaining independence, as soon as possible, based on international organizations' stipulations and the immediate withdrawal of the South African occupying forces.

In this communique Iran and Sierra Leone express their support for consolidating the Nonaligned Movement and call for purging this movement of elements unfaithful to its principles. They express hope that the movement can, aside from its specific trends and working decisions, play a more effective role in solving member-countries' problems.

The two sides also strongly condemn the recent crime perpetrated by the South African racist regime — the murder of late President Samora Machel of Mozambique and his entourage in an attack on their plane — and call for international measures and an escalation of struggles by this area's nations to overthrow these enemies of mankind as soon as possible.

Condemning the occupation of Afghanistan by foreign occupying forces and the massacre of innocent Afghan people the two sides call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of these aggressive forces and for self-determination for the Muslim and combatant Afghan people.

In the joint communique the two countries condemn aggression by any country against another. Describing aggression as contrary to recognized international principles, the two sides condemn the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and state that the Islamic Republic has the right to defend itself until the aggressor is punished. Regarding the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Iraqi regime, the two sides condemn attacks on cities and residential areas; threats to aviation routes; attacks on tankers, passenger aircraft, and railways; and the use of chemical weapons — acts with which the Iraqi regime tries to create insecurity in the region and which are contrary to all accepted international principles and norms — and they appeal to international organizations to condemn the Iraqi regime for these crimes.

Expressing regret over the reestablishment of relations between some African countries and the regime occupying Jerusalem, the two sides describe any expansion of this regime's presence in the Third World as a threat to the nations of the Third World and warn them against maintaining relations with a regime that has committed crimes and aggressions such as those in Lebanon and Palestine and which has cooperated extensively with the South African regime in political, economic, cultural, military, and nuclear fields.

In this communique Sierra Leone praises the important gains of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the brave resistance of the Muslim people of Iran against imperialism, Zionism, and the imposed war and expresses its gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting the oppressed of the world and the nations of the Third World.

Agreement Signed To Resume Ties With Congo

LD071731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry announced: In accordance with a joint communique signed by the legal undersecretary of our country's Foreign Ministry and the Congolese foreign minister, the two countries decided to resume their long-standing diplomatic relations from 25 November this year.

Khatami Returns From Pakistan; Accords Signed

LD071451 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Minister of Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami who had led a cultural delegation to Pakistan since December 2 arrived here via Dubayy Sunday. During his five-day visit, Khatami met with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and submitted them messages from their Iranian counterparts Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i and Hoseyn Musavi. The Ershad-e Eslami minister also underlined the need to further strengthen Iran-Pakistan cultural relations in his meetings with other Pakistani officials.

A letter of understanding was also signed between the two countries during Khatami's visit on the basis of which the cooperation between the *Islamic Republic News Agency* (IRNA) and the Pakistani news agency was extended for another three years. Tehran-Islamabad cooperation in the fields of cinema, radio, and television is also contained in the letter of understanding.

In a press conference held in Lahore Saturday night Khatami described the propaganda of Western mass media that Iran has relations with the regime occupying Palestine as "futile efforts" to whitewash the White House scandal, and said such propaganda is doomed to defeat.

Oil Minister Departs for Geneva OPEC Session

LD090614 Tehran IRNA in English 0609 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 9, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh left Tehran for Geneva Tuesday morning where he will attend the 80th session of oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Speaking to IRNA prior departure, he said that the main items on the agenda will be production quotas and prices. He said that in the light of cooperation among oil ministers of member countries the session is expected to be successful. One of the main objectives of the Iranian delegation, he stressed, is to reach an agreement on these issues. He also hoped that Iraq will be obliged to cooperate with the OPEC members.

Another issue on the agenda, Aqazadeh told reporters, is election of OPEC secretary general which the organisation has discussed in various sessions with no success for the past four years. However, on the basis of the OPEC's criteria, this term the secretary general must be from Iran, he added, pointing out that this time conditions were better than ever.

On quotas set for members for the months of November and December, he said that new decisions must be made for future and stressed that Iran will accept the present conditions only if Iraq is obliged to observe its quota.

On steps to be taken to raise oil price from the present U.S. dls. 14 to 18, he said that to this end in a fixed period of time

production of members should be curbed. The Geneva session, he said, should set the time period for this purpose, adding that Iran proposed the first of January.

Finally, Aqazadeh said, the session will have to deal with the flexible quota of Saudi Arabia adding that Saudi's output should be reduced.

UAE Sends Thanks for Offer on Bombed Oil Field

LD091001 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Minister of Petroleum and Mines of the United Arab Emirates Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah sent a message to his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh expressing thanks for Iran's proposal to help the UAE repair Abu al-Bakhush oil installations damaged in Iraqi bombing raids. In his message, the UAE minister expressed his sincere interest in the proposal and praised Iran on behalf of the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates. He added that the Iranian oil minister would be informed immediately if the UAE decided to take up the offer.

Following the Iraqi attack on the Abu al-Bskhush oil installations in the Persian Gulf on Nov 25, Iran's oil minister sent a message to his UAE counterpart on Dec 2 announcing Iran's readiness to help repair the damaged installations.

'No Place' in Next Majlis for Oppositionists

PM081131 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Nov 86 p 2

[Unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent untitled report on 25 November Majlis open session]

[Excerpts] Today's open session of the Majlis was held under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

The second speaker at today's Majlis session was Fu'ad Karimi, deputy from Ahvaz. He first paid his condolences to the families of martyrs in Khuzestan and Bakhtaran Provinces and congratulated them.

Karimi then commented on the fall of the liberals and Bani Sadr during the first Majlis: Following their fall, he said, we noticed that a movement had started which was causing rifts in the Majlis and the government. It had in fact caused rifts in the previous cabinet and was pushing some ministers to adopt positions and take sides against the prime minister.

This movement, however, could not achieve its goals during the first Majlis, whose primary task was to give a vote of confidence to the prime minister. Following a brief and private message from the imam, the deputies once again gave their votes to Engineer Musavi. But some deputies thought their views higher than those of the imam and did not give a vote of confidence. [passage omitted]

Karimi continued to give details of the issue, and said: Following Engineer Musavi's introduction to the Majlis, before the Majlis started its open session, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani reminded these gentlemen to pay attention to the political consequences of their voting inside and outside the Majlis and not to weaken the leadership.

They responded by shouting that they were adamant in their position against the leader, recording a total of 99 votes against or abstentions. But the imam acted graciously and advised them that, while those gentlemen had cast their negative votes, from now on a negative vote was against the religious law.

These gentlemen previously made the excuse that the imam's statements took the form of advice and thus stood against the leader, disobeying the imam's direct orders. They continued their attacks against the prime minister and his government, which was in the line of the imam, through their own newspaper, *Resalat*.

This went so far that the imam warned them several times publicly and in private, but the movement continued to act against the imam's orders until the Majlis session last Tuesday [18 November]; then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani told them of the imam's statement that, if these gentlemen continued their actions, the imam would refer the issue to the people and let them deal with these persons. [passage omitted]

Fu'ad Karimi said that he saw this movement's political, economic, and religious positions as deviating from the imam's line. He continued: In the economic arena, this movement defends the feudal lords and capitalists under the cloak of religion, and its political stance is to fight against the government and even the Majlis, again under the cloak of religion. Its aim is to gain political power. On the ideological front it has taken up its position against the imam, saying that the imam's views are merely advice. It has disseminated its views within the framework of religious jurisprudence as against rule by jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih].

The Ahvaz deputy recognized the movement's official organ to be the *Resalat* newspaper. He said: *Resalat* is a mixture of ideologies which differ from the imam's views. Its political line is against the imam's line and its religious views are against the imam's jurisprudence. In short, in religious garb *Resalat* promoted the division of the imam from the nation. It tries to realize a liberal political-economic goal with religious undertones rooted in a free-economy system. [passage omitted] Now the Majlis is concerned about the future and about how the Hezbollah will deal with this movement. We know that the Hezbollah people will determine the fate of this movement, which will be isolated like Bani Sadr and the liberals. There is no place for these people in the next Majlis, and the next Majlis will be completely in the imam's line. [passage omitted]

Majlis Deputies Protest 'Questioning' of Regime

PM081133 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Nov 86 p 18

[Unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent untitled report on continuation of 23 November Majlis open session]

[Excerpts] At 1110 yesterday morning the open Majlis session continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, first deputy speaker. [passage omitted]

At the end of yesterday's session a letter written by eight Majlis deputies to the Majlis leadership was read out. The note withdrew the eight deputies' question to Foreign Minister Dr Velayati last week concerning U.S. contacts with Iran. Here is the text of the letter:

"Respected Leadership of the Majlis,

"Greetings! This letter follows the recent remarks by the nation's imam on the anniversary of the Great Prophet's birth — peace be unto him and his family — and is aimed at following the leader's wise advice completely. It was thought that discussing the question put to the foreign minister in the Majlis would be in the revolution's interest and would receive the imam's consent. After receiving the imam's views, and considering the people's interests, we no longer see the need to put the question.

"Signed: Jalal-Eddin Farsi, Seyyed Mohammad Sirjani, Musaviyani, Nikravesh, Morteza Fahim Kermani, Seyyed Mohammad Khamane'i, Najafi, and Esrafiliyan."

Following the above letter another note, written by a large number of deputies to the imam, was read out:

"To the respected and great leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

"Greetings on the greatest of victories for the people and the regime, which caused great embarrassment and disgrace to the U.S. President. This victory has indeed brought much happiness to the Islamic nation throughout the world.

"This follows your precious statement on the anniversary of the Last Messenger's birth — peace be unto him and his family — and also of Imam Sadiq — peace be unto him — and is in connection with a movement that was against Islam and religion and against the interests of the regime. The movement was launched by a group that causes pain to Your Eminence from time to time. This time, again, instead of shouting against the United States, they started shouting at our own officials, hoping to make this sweet victory bitter for our people.

We Majlis deputies greatly regret to note that this movement was launched by people who have been trying to weaken the Islamic government for some time by publishing untruthful or secret material in their newspaper. They have taken a negative stance in the Majlis, they have backed the rich, the land-grabbers, and the hoarders against the interests of the deprived.

What is even worse and unforgivable, is that they have created a rift among the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran under these wartime conditions and have staged various plots. This small group, which has separated itself from the imam and the nation, has created special circumstances inside and outside the Majlis. Every day its members question the regime's stances and the Islamic government's position. Their only gain from these actions is to weaken the Islamic front and to strengthen the opposition faction.

We, the undersigned, comprise a majority of Majlis deputies. By declaring our hatred of such devilish actions, we announce that we can no longer bear to see pain being caused to our beloved imam. We swear once again that the Majlis is, as ever, in the line of rule by jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] and that it will strive to follow the leadership of our exalted leader completely. God willing. [passage omitted]

'Source' Says Iraq Bombed Sayyid Sadiq 3 Dec

LD081737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] An informed source in northern Iraq reports that Iraqi fighter planes bombed Sayyid Sadiq District, in Sulaymaniyah Province, on Wednesday [3 December]. According to this report, officials of the Ba'thist regime consider the Sayyid Sadiq District to be a place where Iraqi Army deserters congregate and where operations by opposition Kurdish guerrillas are prepared.

An eye-witness said that he had seen the black Iraqi fighter planes bombing the area from a high altitude, resulting in a number of people being killed or wounded, and a number of houses damaged.

It should be pointed out that in its communique No 2,467, the Armed Forces of the Zionist regime ruling over Iraq claimed that on that same day Iran had bombed the Sayyid Sadiq area. This accusation was immediately refuted by the War Publicity Headquarters.

The *Al-Amal Al-Islami* weekly, which published the report, adds: The antipopular regime ruling over Baghdad has committed such acts several times and has blamed them on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Sayyid Sadiq incident is not the first.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

4 Killed in Iraqi 7 Dec Attack

LD081227 Tehran IRNA in English 1211 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 8, IRNA — Iraqi bombardment of the city of Gilan-e Gharb and Gur-e Espid village Sunday afternoon left four martyrs and a number of others wounded. Several houses were also destroyed or damaged during the bombardment.

The Iraqi regime has recently resumed inhuman attacks on residential areas in Iran. At least 100 civilians were martyred in Iraqi bombing of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Saturday.

Economic Centers Hit in Basra

LD081343 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 8, IRNA — Iran's long range artillery fire heavily hit Iraq's economic, military, and

intelligence centers along an 80 km line from Al-'Aziz to Umm Qasr in the southern province of Basra Sunday and Monday in retaliation for recent Iraqi air raids on residential areas in Iran.

According to latest reports, Al-Harithah power installations, Basra aluminium manufacturing factory and petrochemical plant, Az Zubayr fuel reservoirs, strategic bridge of Garmali [name as received], T.V. relay station in Al-Khalid District in southern Basra, and roads and railways connecting Basra to other cities suffered heavy damage in the Iranian shelling.

The supply and logistic centers of the Third, Sixth, and Seventh Iraqi Corps incurred substantial damage with columns of smoke from these centers engulfing Basra.

Basra Province, which is the southern operational axis of Iraqi forces, has huge economic and industrial installations. More than 1,500 square kms of this province is within the range of Iranian artillery fire. The War Information Headquarters (WIH) had called on the Iraqi people to evacuate areas around economic and military cen.ers in Basra before Iran's reprisal attacks started.

In related reports from Bakhtaran, Iraq's industrial and military installations around Khanaqin, Mandali, and Naft Khaneh were hit by Iranian long range artillery fire on Sunday. Columns of smoke seen rising from the enemy installations is an indication of heavy losses inflicted on them.

Over the same period, 26 Iraqi soldiers were killed and six enemy bunkers destroyed in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqis Bomb Bakhtaran Village

LD081633 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 8, IRNA — Five civilians were martyred and seven others wounded when intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed Qorbil [name as received] village, a suburb of Kangavar, Bakhtaran Province, at 14:00 hours (10:30 hours GMT) Monday. Several houses were either destroyed or damaged in the raid.

Four other civilians were martyred and a number of others wounded in Sunday's Iraqi air attack on rural areas of the western city of Gilan-e Gharb.

Missile Attacks Said 'In Retaliation'

LD090458 Tehran IRNA In English 0455 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA — Industrial and economic centers in the Iraqi port city of Basra were hit by three short-range "Eagle" missiles of the Iranian Ground Forces Monday. The attack was carried out in the last hours of the 48-hour deadline set by the Islamic Republic of Iran to shell economic installations in the city.The missile attack was in retaliation for recent Iraqi mischief in attacking residential and industrial areas in Iran.

Also on Sunday, Basra's industrial and military centers were hit by three missiles of the same kind.

'Infiltration' Operations Continue

LD081854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, in continuation of the guerrilla and infiltration operations inside Iraqi territory, the rangers of the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular skirmishes of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in the course of a successful operation, inflicted some losses on the Iraqi Zionist forces deep inside that country. In the course of these operations, which were carried out with the cooperation of the Barzanai Peshmerga, the concentration point of two battalions of the Iraqi Zionist forces were attacked south of Sayyid Sadiq, killing or wounding 60 Iraqi troops.

Communique No 2,678

LD071622 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi economic and military centers in the cities of Diyanah, Al-'Amadiyah, and Jalula as well as power installations of Dukan Dam and Al-Kut military base at 04:08, 04:11, 04:19, 07:40, and 08:10 hours GMT Sunday, said a military communique here.

Communique Number 2,678 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that the fighters after inflicting substantial losses on enemy economic and military centers returned safely to bases.

Several civilians were martyred and many others wounded when intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, and Gilan-e Gharb, Ilam Province, Saturday. The Iraqi warplanes also bombarded some Iranian economic and industrial centers on Saturday inflicting damage on them.

The military communique furthermore said that Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraq's Al-Shu'aybah base on Saturday inflicting considerable losses on it.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least four bunkers and 11 vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts on Saturday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

According to the communique, exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Kushuk operational theater, southern fronts, as a result of which Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damage. A convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Kani-Sheykh operational theater Saturday was shelled and forced to flee, the communique said.

Communique No 2,679

LD081538 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 8, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim

combatants throughout the fronts on Sunday, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces here Monday.

Communique Number 2,679 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 12 bunkers and observation posts of theirs.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throught the fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar, Mehran, and Kushk operational regions.

Several Iraqi gun emplacements and some enemy heavy vehicles were destroyed in the northwestern and western fronts on Sunday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

The military communique furthermore said that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi armoured units in Marivan operational theater, northwestern fronts, Sunday silenced their fire and destroyed some tanks.

Convoys of Iranian patrols after gathering intelligence on key Iraqi positions throughout the fronts and dealing considerable blows on enemy troops returned shafely to bases, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, some pieces of Iraqi engineering machinery were destroyed and enemy engineering operations halted in 'Eyn-Khvosh operational region by Iranian artillery fire Sunday.

Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled an Iraqi vehicle column in Nahr 'Anbar Sunday inflicting losses on it and preventing its movement, the communique said, adding that reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters were also checked in eastern Basra.